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To the Members of the Judiciary Committee:

As a child, I was sexually abused by Dr. George Reardon at St. Francis Hospital. I urge you to approve the passage of Raised Bill #5473 regarding the abolition of the statute of limitations contained in General Statutes Section 52-577d. Because of the sensitive nature of the details of my claims of sexual abuse, I have asked that my attorneys submit this written statement to you anonymously.

I was born in 1958. As a teenager, I was sexually abused by Dr. George Reardon. At the time he was an employee of St. Francis Hospital and also was the hospital's Chief of Endocrinology. For years, I was too embarrassed and afraid to admit the abuse that I had endured and to seek legal redress for it. You have no idea what a difficult predicament that presents. It is an impossible feeling to come forward and claim something that you know is true, but for which you have no corroborating evidence. You know that your credibility and integrity will be attacked by lawyers for those whom you seek to hold accountable. It is a remarkably similar feeling of isolation, helplessness and fear to that associated with the sexual abuse itself.

When the Connecticut Department of Public Health's investigation of Dr. Reardon became public in 1993, it gave me the courage to come forward. I contacted a lawyer to advise that I had been sexually abused by Dr. Reardon as a child. At that time, I was informed that any claim I could make was barred by the applicable statute of limitations, which was then 17 years from the age of majority, in other words, 35 yrs of age. I had missed the deadline by only a month or two.

In November, 2007, I learned of the cache of child pornography that was discovered in the basement of Dr. Reardon's former home. I immediately sought counsel. At the time, I was 49 years old. Lawsuits have been filed on my behalf in which I seek to hold those who are responsible accountable, and to obtain fair and just compensation for all of the suffering I have endured over the years because of the abuse. I am pursuing my claims with the understanding, however, that my claims may ultimately be dismissed from Court, without a hearing on the merits, because once again my claims may be barred by the current statute of limitations.

The arbitrary and random application of the provisions of General Statutes Section 52-577d, especially when considered in the context of its evolution overtime, is simply not fair. This is not fair. I have suffered just as much as a person who may have been 47 years old when their claim was filed. The only difference is simply that I have suffered a couple of years longer. That simply cannot be a reason to bar my claim, while permitting that of the person just slightly younger. Please remove the arbitrary statutory deadline from the books for the very unique claims of child sex abuse, and allow those strong enough to come forward with these claims to have their day in Court. Let a jury decide, based upon the evidence presented in the courtroom, whether I have proven my claim or not. It is bad enough to have been sexually abused and victimized as an innocent child. A bad situation is only made worse when it is compounded by an arbitrary statutory deadline that victimizes many of us yet again.

Thank you for your consideration.